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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WOMEN'S BAR FOUNDATION TO AWARD ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP IN CHIEF JUSTICE MCMORROW'S NAME

The Women's Bar Foundation (WBF) will confer an academic scholarship named after Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Mary Ann G. McMorrow during its 2004 Scholarship Award Luncheon to be held Thursday, September 23 in the International Ballroom of the Chicago Hilton & Towers, 720 S. Michigan Avenue.

"This scholarship is being made in recognition of her numerous and unprecedented accomplishments in the legal profession," Women's Bar Foundation President Joanne R. Driscoll said. "Throughout Chief Justice McMorrow's career, she has been a trailblazer and role model, supporting and mentoring many women lawyers in their career choices and quest for excellence," Driscoll said.

The academic scholarship is being awarded to Stephanie L. Reinhart who attends the University of Illinois College of Law. She will receive the scholarship award from Chief Justice McMorrow.

In 2002, the Women's Bar Foundation awarded a public interest scholarship, the first of its kind, in honor of Chief Justice McMorrow.

"The Women's Bar Foundation and the important work it does has always been of great importance to me, and to think that I will now have an annual scholarship presented in my name is deeply gratifying," Chief Justice McMorrow said.

The luncheon will feature Ellen Goodman, a Pulitzer Prize winning columnist and journalist. Her column appears in over 450 newspapers throughout the country. Ms. Goodman has been with the Boston Globe as an associate editor and columnist since 1967.

When Justice McMorrow became Chief Justice on September 5, 2002, she was the first woman to head any branch of government in Illinois, continuing her path as a pioneer in opening up opportunities for women.

She was the only woman in her graduating class at Loyola University School of Law in 1953 and was elected class president and associate editor of the law review.

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She also was the first woman to prosecute major criminal cases in the Cook County State's Attorney's office and in 1992 became the first woman elected to the Illinois Supreme Court.

Chief Justice McMorrow was elected a judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County in 1976; she was assigned to the Appellate Court in 1985 and was elected to that court in 1986, where she was the first woman to serve as chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Appellate Court.

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2002 Justice John Paul Stevens Award; the Medal of Excellence from the Loyola University School of Law Alumni Association; the Freedom Award from John Marshall School of Law and the Illinois Bar Foundation's Fellows Award for Distinguished Service to Law and Society.

Chief Justice McMorrow is a past president of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois and recipient of its highest award, the Myra Bradwell Woman of Achievement Award, named for the first woman lawyer in Illinois.

She is a member or former member of several bar associations and judicial boards and associations.

Chief Justice McMorrow was a faculty adviser at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada, and has often served as a faculty member at Illinois Judicial Conferences. She has lectured extensively in seminars and symposiums for judges, lawyers, social workers, psychiatrists and students, and has been active in community programs.

She is a lifelong resident of Chicago, a widow and the mother of one daughter.

The Women's Bar Association of Illinois was established in 1914 by nine women lawyers in the Chicago metropolitan area. It was founded to promote the interests and welfare of women lawyers and also to aid in the enactment of legislation for the common good and in the administration of justice.